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of Princeton, regarding the preceptorial system at that university in its relation to library work, applies *mutatis mutandis* to docent service at a museum of art. In his Annual Report for 1906 Dr. Wilson wrote: "The chief and most characteristic object of library endeavor is to get men to read the best books and into the habit of reading. . . . In the very process of doing this, they [the preceptors] guide to the best method of reading as well as to the best reading, and fulfill . . . the precise ideal after which librarians have been striving." Of docent service it may in like manner be said: "The chief and most characteristic object of museum endeavor is to get people to see the best art and into the habit of seeing it. . . . In the very process of doing this, they [the docents] guide to the best method of seeing as well as to the best sights, and fulfill . . . the precise ideal after which museums have been striving."

Thursday Conferences.

FOUR Conferences were given in the galleries of the Museum during January, and each was twice repeated: in the Bartlett Room on the 9th, and again on the 11th and 14th, by Mr. Sidney N. Deane on the Marbles of the Bartlett Collection; in the Japanese Cabinet on the 16th, and again on the 18th and the 21st, by Mr. Francis G. Curtis on Early Japanese Prints; in the Gallery of Greek Terra-cottas on the 23d, and again on the 25th and the 28th, by Prof. G. H. Chase of Harvard University on Arretine Moulds; in the Textile Gallery on January 30, and again on February 4 and 5, by Dr. Denman W. Ross on Illustrations of the Art of Painting in the Museum Collections. The cordial thanks of the Museum are due the invited speakers for their willingness to repeat the Conferences in response to the continued demand for admission.

The following Conferences are announced for February:

February 6. *First Print Room*. Mr. Emil H. Richter, "Honoré Daumier and Lithography."

February 13. *Class Room*. Prof. E. S. Morse, "The Art Handwork of Japan."

February 20. *First Gallery*. Mr. John B. Potter, "Construction in Painting."

February 27. *First Print Room*. Prof. Charles H. Moore, "On the Use of Etching and Mezzotint in Turner's *Liber Studiorum*."

For admission apply by letter to the Secretary of the Museum, specifying the conference or conferences for which tickets are desired. No course tickets are issued. On account of the limited space in the galleries, but one ticket can be issued to each applicant.

The hour of the Conferences has been changed to 2.30 P. M.

The list of Conferences for March will shortly be announced in the press.

Notes.

A MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORS AND TEACHERS of drawing and manual training in Boston and neighborhood was held at the invitation of the Director on Saturday, January 4, in the Textile Gallery. A talk was given by Dr. Denman W. Ross on "Technical Training and Appreciation." In opening the meeting Dr. Fairbanks referred to the fruitful suggestions that had been the result of the previous meeting, arranged in January of last year by his predecessor, Mr. J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr. The meeting was attended by about ninety persons.

MR. OKAKURA KAKUZO, Adviser to the Chinese and Japanese Department, returned to the Museum from Japan, on December 7.

THE THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT of the Museum is about to appear.

A LOAN EXHIBITION OF BRONZES including examples from the Renaissance and works by contemporary artists is expected to open about February 25 in the Textile Gallery. The exhibition has been arranged with the coöperation of the Visiting Committee to the collections of Western Art.

BY INVITATION OF THE TRUSTEES, a number of teachers of art and of history in schools in and about Boston met the Director of the Museum on Friday, January 24, in the Picture Galleries, from four to six o'clock. A loan exhibition of Dutch and Flemish pictures was opened in the Fifth Gallery on this occasion.

VAN GOYEN'S RIVER SCENE, whose suggestion of St. Pancras Church in Leiden was noted in the October Bulletin, is thought in that city to be based on a reminiscence of St. Pancras combined with various unidentified motives.

ADMISSIONS TO THE MUSEUM during 1907 were 259,566, an increase of about 11,000 over 1906, allowance being made for those due to the daily attendance of pupils of the School, who have not been counted since October, 1906. The number of paid admissions was 20,430. The average number entering the Museum on Saturdays (9-5) was 1,295; on Sundays (1-5) 2,404; on public holidays — Washington's Birthday, Patriot's Day, Memorial Day, Bunker Hill Day, and Labor Day — 2,597, admission on all these days being free.

FREE TICKETS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES were issued as follows during the year: 591 to teachers in the public schools, giving admission with their pupils; 780 to classes for use by any pupil; 951 to instructors in colleges and schools; 370 to artists; 845 to special students; 70 to classes consisting of a large number of pupils.

THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUSEUM for the year 1907 were \$76,684.68, as against \$79,278.09 during 1906. Annual subscriptions toward current expenses to the amount of \$17,432 were received from 1,097 persons as compared with \$17,966 from 1,037 persons in 1906. The expenses were \$2,593.41 less than in 1906 and the annual subscribers sixty more in number.

DURING 1907, 168 LECTURES were given in the class room of the Museum to 3,263 auditors. Beside the series arranged by the Committee on Utilization, courses were given to classes from the West Newton Street High School, the Trade School for Girls, Thayer Academy, and a number of clubs and other organizations. Gallery talks on the collections were given during the year to pupils of the School by several officers of the Museum.



View of the new building from a house-top across Huntington Avenue. (See the Bulletin for October last.)

The New Museum on January 25, 1908.

THE mild weather of December and most of January has greatly favored progress on the new building. All the excavations were finished and all the footings in by December 31, and up to the present it has been possible to push the work of construction almost without interruption. Although less than ten months have elapsed since ground was broken, it is estimated that the building is now half completed.

The rapid progress lately made can best be appreciated by comparing the illustration above with that published in the Bulletin of four months since. At that time, September 13, the power house and chimney were practically complete, and the walls of the Classical (nearer) wing had begun to rise. At present the chimney is wholly masked by the walls and iron work of the Japanese (farther) wing, the walls of the Classical wing have reached the cornice, and the entrance portico alone is still below ground. The roof trusses over the Classical court are in place and those along the Japanese corridor

are beginning to show over the foundations of the entrance. This will be the last portion of the building to be completed, the quarters assigned to the collections taking precedence. The whole northern wall of the building, nearly four hundred feet in length, has been pushed to its full height in order to protect the rest of the work from the north wind and to reflect upon it the sun's warmth. In its shelter the temperature is several degrees higher than elsewhere and has permitted of work that could not otherwise have been accomplished. The flooring of both stories is now in place over considerable areas of the building. The installation of pipes and conduits for ventilation, heating, and electricity has kept pace with the progress of the walls and floors. Weather permitting, the roofing of the classical wing with concrete blocks, copper sheathing, and glass will proceed at once.

There seems at present no reason to doubt that the new Museum will be ready in time to permit of transferring the collections before June of next year, when possession of the present building must be surrendered to the purchasers.